



LABOUR PARTY IN TURMOIL

Tweedledum and Tweedledee—Angela Eagle and Owen Smith profiled
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Labour MPs support Trident—and let the Tories off the hook
>>Page 3

Party members speak out against “disgusting” attacks
>>Page 4

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Protests take on police—Black Lives Matter movement spreads in Britain**>>page 20**

Black activists explain why they’re marching**>>pages 10&11**



Socialist Worker

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Thousands protested in London against austerity and racism last Saturday

PICTURES: NEIL TERRY

DEFEND CORBYN FIGHT TORIES!

AS THE cuts, wage curbs and attacks on public services continue, MPs lined up this week to approve spending up to £205 billion on Trident nuclear missiles.

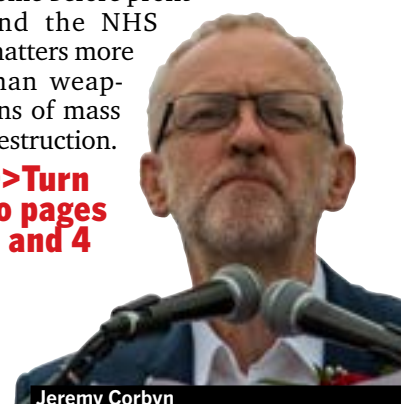
It wasn't just the Tories. Most Labour MPs agreed to it as well.

We need to redouble the fight against austerity and racism, defend Jeremy Corbyn against his opponents on the right, and fight racism.

British politics has gone through turmoil. There can be no return to “business as usual”.

We have to keep up the pressure to beat back the Tories and fight for a better society where people come before profit and the NHS matters more than weapons of mass destruction.

>>Turn to pages 3 and 4



Jeremy Corbyn

TURKEY

People beat back coup—but danger lurks ahead

A COUP attempt in Turkey aimed at deposing the president Recep Tayyip Erdogan was beaten back by mass mobilisation last weekend.

For over an hour it looked likely that the coup would succeed.

But then thousands of people came out to oppose it.

>>Page 7

TORIES



May's cabinet is full of bankers and crooks

NEW TORY Prime Minister Theresa May put together a new cabinet last week.

It includes homophobe Phillip Hammond, toff Amber Rudd and racist Boris Johnson. Hated health secretary Jeremy Hunt kept his post and expenses cheat Liam Fox made an unwelcome return.

>>Page 17

HISTORY

How Big Bill Haywood took on US bosses

BIG BILL Haywood was a giant of the US workers' movement—and a founder of the IWW union.

Historian John Newsinger has edited a collection of Haywood's journalism.

He writes on the life of a revolutionary.

>>Pages 14&15



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Cameron's little cutie'

The Daily Mail goes a bit OTT with an entire page of photos of David Cameron's five year old daughter

'McCluskey is behaving like a full-on Trotskyite'

A "former Labour minister" attacks Unite union leader Len McCluskey for backing Jeremy Corbyn

'Highly unlikely to be cost effective'

Government reason for a meningitis B jab not being extended to older children

'The definition of modern power-dressing'

The Sun keeps going on about Theresa May's shoes

'Kitten heels must put foot down on immigration now'

Sun columnist Rod Liddle has more instructions for May

'It's absolutely fantastic that we've got a woman prime minister'

Cherie Blair on Tory prime minister Theresa May

'Alright, let's be bold, let's go for revolution'

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn



Extra cash for Tory advisors as Pig Face One finally flies

DAVID CAMERON lined up his former chief of staff to become Britain's new ambassador to France.

Cameron recommended Ed Llewellyn for the posting in Paris during his final days in Downing Street.

Cameron overruled the head of the civil service to increase redundancy payoffs for his outgoing team of political aides, increasing the collective sum from £747,045 to more than £1 million.

The same people could be included in a resignation honours list due this week—although Troublemaker was also optimistic of a mention in the list.

Cameron's insistence that aides who worked in government before last year's general election be given a six-month payoff means the real amount could be twice that sum.

The deal means the special advisers of cabinet ministers sacked in last week's clear-out will also be entitled to the enhanced redundancy packages.

Special advisers, known as Spads, to George Osborne, Michael Gove, John Whittingdale and Nicky Morgan will all



PIG FACE One

also benefit from the payoffs of up to £60,000.

CAM FORCE One, the new prime ministerial plane, made its debut flight only two weeks ago. Perhaps

now to be called the May Fly, Cameron's vanity project was used to get Cameron off to a Nato summit.

David Cameron squeezed £10million out of the Treasury for something he used just once.

HURRAH—THE HOUSE of Lords has elected a new hereditary peer. The 15th Earl of Cork and Orrery was chosen by crossbenchers. He won 15 votes. His interests are "dendrology [the study of trees], sailing and cathedrals". He is Baron Boyle of Marston cos Cork and Orrery are in Ireland and so don't count. He beat Richard Hubert Gordon Gilbey, 12th Baron Vaux of Harrowden.

Earl of Cork

THERESA MAY made much of tackling inequality and helping the "working class" in her first speech as prime minister. But things have quickly got back to normal. May is considering ramping up segregation in education by allowing new grammar schools to open. Education secretary Justine Greening is "open-minded".

EU boss goes for vampire squid job

GOLDMAN SACHS has hired former European Commission head Jose Manuel Barroso.

French president Francois Hollande labelled Barroso's job as "morally unacceptable".

The vampire squid firm said, "We began our discussions at a time when the prevailing view was that the Remain campaign would succeed, an outcome we would have preferred."

Barroso replaces Peter Sutherland, a former European Commissioner and ex-boss of the World Trade Organisation.

As the Daily Telegraph put it in a rather long sentence, "If Goldman

Jose Barroso

was trying to reinforce the view that it, and other big banks, are at the heart of a corporatist, unaccountable nexus that connects business, finance and politics—and whose elite members all end up working for each other and doing backroom deals with one another—then it hired the right person, in the right way and at the right time."

Ukip members total tossers, says Ukip

UKIP is demanding a £5,000 deposit from any member who wants to run to succeed Nigel Farage as party leader.

Members who want to stand for election must ensure their social media profiles are purged of racist posts.

"Please be aware that 'liking' or 'sharing' anything by a Ukip proscribed party will result in a failed vetting status," an email on the election rules states.

Ukip's leader in Scotland David Coburn said that some party members were "total tossers", and insisted the financial "barrier" was

Ukip mouthpiece

necessary to ensure the right candidates stepped forward.

He added that it was easy enough to raise £5,000.

Various people have come forward to lead the hard right party.

But none of them are very interesting.

We've never had it so good

THANK goodness George Osborne's austerity got the economy back on track before he was sacked last week.

Thanks to all those cuts, Britain is now in "recovery"—or so we are told. Except the "recovery" doesn't seem to apply to workers.

The Research Foundation found that under-35s earned £8,000 less during their 20s than a typical person in the previous generation.

If the trend continues millennials—those born between the early 1980s and 2000—could become the first generation to earn less than their parents.

FIGURE IT OUT

£205BN

cost of Trident renewal according to CND

140

Labour MPs who voted for it on Monday

Shadow cabinet Barry who?

LABOUR'S Barry Gardiner was shouted down by MPs when he got up at a meeting.

Bizarrely it is some weird tradition that you should let shadow cabinet ministers speak first.

Even more bizarrely the political giants of the Parliamentary Labour Party hadn't noticed Jeremy Corbyn had appointed him shadow energy secretary hours earlier.

Israel's video message

ISRAELI PRIME minister Benjamin Netanyahu has hit on a new way to bring peace to the region—a YouTube video.

The video, Five Steps To Peace, is aimed at Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas. In it, Netanyahu urges Abbas to "teach tolerance not terror".

It seems we were on the wrong track when we thought ending the occupation of Palestine might be the solution.

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Labour votes for Trident let the Tories off the hook

by NICK CLARK

LABOUR MPS lined up with the Tories to attack their own leader in parliament on Monday. It showed the lengths to which they will go to oust left wing leader Jeremy Corbyn.

The attacks came in a parliamentary debate on Trident nuclear weapons ahead of a vote on whether to renew the submarines that carry the missiles.

Corbyn, who has always campaigned against nuclear weapons, opposed renewal. But instead of opposing the Tories, several Labour MPs interrupted Corbyn.

Labour MP Angela Smith demanded to know why Corbyn wouldn't give "a defence of the government's motion".

And Barrow and Furness MP John Woodcock even intervened during Theresa May's speech to say, "It remains steadfastly Labour Party policy" to vote with the Tories on Trident.

Only 47 Labour MPs voted against Trident—while 140 voted in favour. More Scottish National Party MPs voted against Trident than Labour ones.

Some 41 Labour MPs abstained following a call from Labour's shadow foreign and defence secretaries Emily Thornberry and Clive Lewis.

Contempt

The pair—who are supporters of Corbyn—had said MPs should treat the vote "with the contempt it deserved" by not taking part.

They argued that the debate was a deliberate attempt to divide Labour. In practice this meant failing to oppose the Tories.

Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson called on Labour MPs to vote for Trident.

He also attacked Len McCluskey



and Tim Roache, leaders of the Unite and GMB unions which organise workers in the nuclear industry, for supporting Corbyn.

In a sharp escalation of his previous comments, Watson said he believed Unite members would be

ANTI-TRIDENT PROTEST at parliament on Monday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

"furious" about the union's support for Corbyn.

MP Jamie Reed said he would support Trident, "even if there was a mood sweeping our country" against nuclear weapons. He said scrapping Trident would risk Britain's "strategic relationship" with the US.

The arguments exposed the lies that supporting Trident was about "security" or being electable.

Instead it was about, "our relationship with our Nato allies," as Labour MP Toby Perkins said.

Labour MPs would rather line up with the Tories than question Britain's relationship with the US.

Reed also attacked Corbyn's "contempt" for Labour members.

Yet a YouGov poll released the same night as the Trident vote

showed Corbyn's support among Labour members is increasing.

It found that Corbyn's net approval rating has risen from three to 14 since open attempts to remove him began.

Over 50 percent of Labour members polled said they would vote for Corbyn in the leadership election.

It is Labour MPs who have contempt for their members, not Corbyn.

He is likely to win Labour's leadership election with a huge mandate—again.

But his MPs' open assault on him in parliament shows they will never accept him as leader.

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Unions should take on right

GMB UNION leader Tim Roache made a thinly-disguised attack on Corbyn on Monday for his opposition to Trident nuclear weapons.

Roache said, "It's not acceptable to play politics with our members' livelihoods."

Yet other union leaders have spoken out in Corbyn's defence.

Dave Ward of the CWU union sent a letter to branches last week condemning the "outrageous actions" of Labour MPs trying to force Corbyn out.

It came after the

Bristol and District branch of the CWU said their local Labour MP Thangam Debbonaire wasn't welcome in their offices.

Debbonaire, who opposes Corbyn, had used their office as a base for her campaign during last year's general election.

Corbyn still has the support of most trade unions.

But Roache's words show their support is not guaranteed.

Union activists should follow Bristol CWU's lead and demand their union withdraws support for Labour MPs attacking Corbyn.



Dave Ward

ELECTION

MPs split on how to beat Corbyn

JEREMY CORBYN'S enemies in the Labour Party were struggling to unite with each other as Socialist Worker went to press.

Angela Eagle and Owen Smith came forward as candidates to force Corbyn out (see page 5).

Smith officially launched his campaign last Sunday and pitched his campaign to the left of Eagle's.

He pledged to rewrite the iconic Clause 4 of the party's constitution to "put tackling inequality at the heart of everything we do".

Smith was said to have the support of at least 90 Labour MPs—and possibly more than Eagle.

His support shows how Labour MPs have had to accommodate to the party's shift to the left.

Unity

But Smith is no left winger. He has presented himself as the "unity candidate" who can get rid of Corbyn for the right.

The deadline for challengers' nominations was set for Wednesday of this week. There is pressure on the candidate with the fewest nominations to pull out.

Corbyn will almost certainly beat either of them.

MPs are united on getting rid of Corbyn.

One former shadow cabinet minister is reported to have said, "We need a battering ram to get rid of Jeremy."

"Who the battering ram is doesn't matter as much as getting rid of him."

But MPs are divided on how best to do that.

More online...

● **Voices of the marchers in London against the Tories, austerity and racism**
bit.ly/2acUYPd

● **Socialist Workers Party statement on the Turkish coup**
bit.ly/29lm9wK

● **Thousands say No to Racism, No to Austerity**
bit.ly/29KoibA

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IN THIS WEEK

2011

Breivik kills 77 in Norway attacks

ANDERS Behring Breivik murdered 77 people in Norway in terrorist attacks on 22 July 2011.

Breivik had many links to far right and Nazi organisations—including the fascist English Defence League in Britain.



Dirty tricks in Labour leave party members ‘disgusted’

by NICK CLARK

MEMBERS OF the Labour Party have spoken out against attempts to shut down party democracy in the run-up to a new leadership election.

Labour members told Socialist Worker the actions of Labour MPs, officials and the party's right are “ridiculous”, “disgusting” and “disgraceful”.

The outcry came after Labour's national executive committee (NEC) voted last week to suspend branch and constituency meetings.

The party's general secretary Iain McNicol said this was due to a “marked increase in reports of intimidation and threatening behaviour”. Such accusations have been used to smear and silence supporters of Labour's left wing leader Jeremy Corbyn.

In Brighton an entire branch of the party was suspended after Corbyn supporters were elected to local executive positions at a 600-strong meeting on 9 July.

The NEC annulled the results and suspended the branch after members were accused of spitting and threatening violence.

Brighton Labour Party member John Donovan told Socialist Worker that the accusations were “just not true”. He said, “It was an absolutely democratic vote. The democratic procedures were followed correctly.”

Challenge

The same meeting saw Brighton's right wing Labour MP Peter Kyle welcome Angela Eagle's leadership challenge against Corbyn.

And in a private email ahead of the meeting Brighton's Labour council leader Warren Morgan warned that the party faced a “takeover” by Corbyn supporters.

The split reflects the deep division between most of Labour's



Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn

BACK STORY

The Labour Party is set to begin a new leadership election

- It came about after Labour MPs challenged leader Jeremy Corbyn
- Corbyn was elected leader last year with 60 percent of the vote
- But many Labour MPs don't agree with his left wing politics
- Party membership has surged under Corbyn and is the highest in 50 years
- There were 500,000 Labour members around a week ago—compared to the Tories' 150,000

members and its MPs. Labour's members overwhelmingly back Corbyn because they want a party that supports struggle and opposes racism and austerity.

But Labour MPs prefer a party that is pro-business, panders to racism and supports nuclear weapons.

John said, “The question must be asked why these people are making the complaints the way they are. Are they not happy with the results of the vote? I suspect so.

“It seems like a deliberate stitch-up.”

The best way to support Corbyn is to build movements against austerity and racism that also strengthen the left more broadly. A large demonstration in London last Saturday showed the way (see page 8).

Labour Party member Caragh was on the demo. She said, “The Labour right are really afraid of social media and demonstrations. The only way they can stop Corbyn winning is if they rig it.”

And Amy from Hackney said, “The Parliamentary Labour Party disgusts me.

“The claims of harassment against Momentum are ridiculous—the right has harassed the left for years.

“I joined Labour because of Corbyn—the MPs' action is making me question my membership of the party.”

JEREMY CORBYN after a by-election win in Oldham, one of many victories since he became leader

Corbyn's on the ballot paper—but tens of thousands denied a vote

LABOUR'S NATIONAL executive committee (NEC) agreed last week that left wing leader Jeremy Corbyn would automatically be on the ballot paper in the leadership election.

Corbyn's enemies had argued that he would need nominations from 51 MPs or MEPs to be on the ballot.

It was a deliberate attempt to exclude Corbyn, who is firm favourite to win due to his widespread support from Labour members.

NEC members agreed that only challengers needed to secure nominations by 18 votes to 14.

Labour's NEC is mainly made up of delegates from the party's constituency parties, affiliated trade unions, MPs and shadow cabinet.

Clashes at the NEC can reflect the tensions between different sections of the party.

Corbyn was saved by NEC delegates from Labour's affiliated trade unions, which so far have continued to back him.

Many trade union conferences



Unite union leader Len McCluskey is backing Jeremy Corbyn—for now

this year passed motions in defence of Corbyn and his anti-austerity politics.

But support from trade unions isn't guaranteed.

And the Labour-affiliated Unite and GMB unions have openly challenged Corbyn over his opposition to Trident nuclear weapons.

It shows why it's important for union activists to pressure

their leaders to keep supporting Corbyn.

After some NEC members had left the room, the same meeting voted for restrictions on Labour members' and supporters' voting rights in the election.

It decided that members could not vote if they had joined in the last six months.

And registered supporters will have to pay £25 to take part. This is a huge increase from the £3 charged in the election last year.

The restrictions are another attempt to demolish Corbyn's support from the base of the party.

But Corbyn would have won last year's election even without registered supporters—and still has plenty of support from members.

South London Labour member Venice Allan only joined this year. She told Socialist Worker, “I'm a new Labour Party member so I'll have to pay the £25.

“That's not going to be easy because I'm a single mother with a part time job.”



Jeremy Corbyn supporters rally in London

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Meet the challengers, and spot the difference?

LABOUR MPS Angela Eagle and Owen Smith have both said they want to challenge Corbyn.

Eagle was one of the MPs who resigned from Corbyn's shadow cabinet at the end of last month in a bid to force him to resign.

She refused to say on that day if she wanted to run for leader.

But two days earlier PR executive and former special adviser to Tony Blair Joe McCrea registered a number of websites with names such as angela4leader.org.

Eagle is generally in favour of taxing the rich, equal marriage and keeping the NHS public. She is also closely linked with many trade unions.

Yet her previous job at the bosses' CBI organisation throws her left wing credentials into doubt—as does her support for the Iraq war.

Eagle said she regretted voting for the war in 2003 in an interview with the Guardian newspaper last week.

She claimed “flawed information” had been given to MPs—although that didn't stop Jeremy Corbyn voting against the invasion.

Neither does it explain why she consistently voted against an investigation into the war. Nor her backing for bombing Syria and Iraq again in 2014 and 2015.

Tuition

Eagle supports Trident nuclear weapons and voted in favour of increasing university tuition fees.

And she has generally voted in favour of bills that make it harder for refugees to claim asylum in Britain.

Eagle's pitch is that she is a soft left MP who can reach out to the right.

Owen Smith differs in that he claims to be an MP from the soft left who the right can get behind.

Eagle has described herself as “socialist” and “practical” while Smith wants us to know he'll be “radical and credible”, which is apparently entirely different.

Unlike Eagle, Smith didn't vote for invasion in 2003. Not being an MP at the time certainly helped

When asked on Radio 4 how he



Owen Smith—no, wait

would have voted he replied, “I would have voted against. I was opposed to it at the time.”

A 2006 interview he did for the Wales Online website casts some doubt on this.

He told the website that he “didn't know” if he would have voted for the war or not.

But he did comment, “I thought at the time the tradition of the Labour Party and the tradition of left wing engagement to remove dictators was a noble, valuable tradition”.

In 2014 Smith also voted in favour of air strikes in Iraq—but has twice opposed bombing Syria.

Smith has talked to the left of Eagle—with talk of renationalising the railways, anti-austerity, and tackling inequality.

But their voting records are almost identical.

Like Eagle, Smith abstained on the Tories' welfare bill last year that attacked benefit claimants. Smith now says this was a “mistake”.

Before becoming an MP Smith earned £80,000 a year as a lobbyist for pharmaceutical company Pfizer, which has pushed for more NHS privatisation.

Smith has consistently voted against academisation under a Tory government.

But he was an enthusiastic supporter when they were being pushed by Tony Blair's Labour.

He said in the 2006 interview, “I'm not someone, frankly, who gets terribly wound up about some of the ideological nuances that get read into some of these things”.

Which just about sums him up.

For a longer version go to bit.ly/2a5QmYj

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

REAL CHANGE COMES WHEN THE MASSES ACT

FOR OUR rulers, ordinary people are best seen and not heard. They want us to accept politics as a spectator sport, and to take as little part in it as possible.

That lies behind the Labour right's outrage at supposed “entryism” by tens of thousands of Jeremy Corbyn supporters.

The prospect of mass meetings by working class people with an agenda of their own is what really has Angela Eagle bricking it.

It's why her rival Owen Smith thinks people should be sent back to the polls for a second EU referendum after, as he sees it, failing to give the right answer first time.

Sometimes it's tempting to absorb this idea of ordinary people as passive observers.

Currently there's an immense sense of pessimism among much of the left. It sees anyone who voted to Leave the bosses' European Union as the dupes of racist politicians.

And it sees the dramatic events in Turkey last week (see page 7) as a conspiracy manipulated by its ruthless and repressive president Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

But the events in Turkey

showed something else. A row inside the country's establishment that could have been resolved very quickly and brutally instead ended in humiliating surrender.

What made the difference was many thousands of people defying a military curfew, protesting in the city squares and then confronting tanks in the streets.

It wasn't manoeuvres at the top of society that broke the coup. It was the courageous mobilisation of people who are often regarded as “unpolitical”.

That is the power that isn't supposed to exist in today's world. Yet it beat the coup and could make all the difference in resisting any clampdown that follows.

“It wasn't manoeuvres at the top of society that broke the Turkish coup

There were protests outside

the convention—which was

protected by 5,000 police and other “law enforcers”, as well as National Guard troops on standby.

Unfortunately Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton offers no real alternative to Trump.

She will be just as slavish to the military and big business—as her record demonstrates.

Hope in the US lies with the movements and the interest in socialist ideas that fuelled Bernie Sanders' campaign.

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ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



May's new cabinet faces old problems

COMMENTATORS WERE quick to identify the contradiction in Theresa May's new government. As Robert Peston put it, "her rhetoric is more left wing than Cameron's was, her cabinet is more right wing than his was."

One shouldn't overstate how left wing May's words were. After all, David Cameron had tried to rebrand what she famously called the "nasty party" as the champions of "compassionate Conservatism".

Not long after he became party leader in 2005, the Tory ideologue Tim Montgomerie distinguished between "a Soho form of Tory modernisation and an Easterhouse approach to party renewal". The first he identified with Cameron and his close ally George Osborne, the name of the second comes from the Glasgow housing estate.

Montgomerie elaborated, "The Soho modernisers constantly emphasise issues of homosexuality and drugs. The Easterhouse modernisers propose a different kind of modernisation. They want the Conservative Party to champion the strivers. The strivers—or battlers—are those people on average or below average incomes who cannot afford Labour's stealth taxes or failure to reform the public services."

In March Iain Duncan Smith, the champion of Easterhouse modernisation, resigned from the cabinet. May's adviser Nick Timothy argued at the time that Montgomerie offered "a false choice".

He proposed instead "Erdington modernisation, named after the working class area of Birmingham. With this approach, of course we would still help the very poor and of course we would fight injustices based on gender, race and sexuality, but the Party would adopt a relentless focus on governing in the interests of ordinary, working people."

Symbolic

It's anyone's guess what this means in practice. Clearing Cameron's posh Notting Hill set out of the government suggests May is trying to identify with the "strivers", but it's symbolic politics.

Her new chancellor Philip Hammond has confirmed that the government won't seek to balance the budget by 2020. But George Osborne had already abandoned his own target in one of his last acts in office. This was just an acknowledgement of the reality that austerity has failed.

What do May and Hammond plan to put in its place? Will they follow the advice of Keynesian economists and take advantage of ultra-low interest rates to borrow and invest in infrastructural projects to boost an economy that was slowing before the vote? Nobody knows.

In any case, as Financial Times columnist Janan Ganesh points out, "the process of extrication from the EU will, in all but the most fantastic scenarios, occupy ministerial and bureaucratic capacity for most of the rest of the parliament."

Having crushed the Brexiters in the leadership contest, May gave them some of the plum jobs. Crucially she appointed Boris Johnson foreign secretary, David Davis secretary of state for Brexit, and Liam Fox international trade secretary.

In doing so, May was acknowledging the power of the anti-EU right to disrupt and destroy her government, as they did those of her two Tory predecessors, John Major and the hapless Cameron. But she was also setting a trap.

To quote Peston again, "her catchphrase could be 'You Brexit, you fix it.' All the jobs whose purpose is to make a success of leaving the EU have gone to prominent Leavers."

Johnson is the most exposed. Already the object of general derision, holding the most high-profile office, he runs the risk of coming a public cropper and vanishing forever from frontline politics.

But May can't afford to leave the Brexiters to make a mess of things. Getting Britain's departure from the EU right is too important. Her speedy and ruthless triumph over Andrea Leadsom has reassured big business and the markets.

But British capitalism has still lost its moorings and is floating adrift. May has to plot its new course, while presiding over a divided party, with a tiny parliamentary majority, perhaps amid another recession.

However much she may want to convey the image of stability, her government will be a stormy one.

War and clampdown fail to stop new massacre in Nice

As France extends its state of emergency, **Dave Sewell** argues that the attack should not be an excuse for increased repression

THE FRENCH state responded to the horrific killings in Nice last week with more of the war and repression that had already failed to prevent the attack.

Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel ploughed a lorry into crowds celebrating France's national day on Thursday night of last week. He killed more than 80 people including at least ten children, and injured over 100 more.

Hours before, president Francois Hollande had announced that France's state of emergency declared after the attacks last November was finally set to be lifted.

Aftermath

But in the aftermath of the attack he announced that it would be extended—again—for another three months.

The state of emergency was used to repress protests against Hollande's attack on workers' rights. But it didn't stop mass murder.

The city of Nice actually has even tighter "security" than the rest of France.

The regional president Christian Estrosi boasted in January 2015 after the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris, "If Paris had been equipped with the same network as us," the attackers "wouldn't have gone three blocks without being neutralised".

Those boasts ring bitterly



THE ATTACKER'S lorry (above) and French president Francois Hollande (left)



hollow now.

Racists and supporters of the fascist Front National disrupted a memorial ceremony on Monday.

Hollande's speech after the attack referred to "Islamist terrorism", and that has been the recurring theme since.

Isis did claim credit for the attack two days later.

But there is very little to suggest that "radicalisation"

by Islamist groups or ideology had much of a role in Lahouaiej-Bouhlel's attack.

Neighbours described him as neither religious nor political. In some ways the massacre had more in common with mass shootings in the US than with political terrorism.

For Hollande's interior minister Bernard Cazeneuve, this only means "he radicalised himself very rapidly".

Meaningless

His response to the attacks was to call up police reserves, in particular to beef up border controls. This was a meaningless gesture—Lahouaiej-Bouhlel lived in France.

So was Hollande's vow to "strike at those who threaten

us" by stepping up bombing in Iraq and Syria.

Bombs will only fuel further violence, death and desperation.

Cazeneuve then called on "all patriotic citizens" to sign up for to join the police reserves.

After the attacks in January and December of last year, Hollande's government had some success in using scare-mongering and national unity to boost its flagging support.

But there are only so many times it can pull that off, particularly after its fierce repression of this year's protests.



Got a story?

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Church of England could have prevented abuse

HUNDREDS OF girls were drugged and abused at a private children's home in Kent throughout the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

The Church of England ran Kendall House until it closed in 1986. A report into the home was commissioned by the Bishop of Rochester and published last week.

It found, "Girls as young as 11 were routinely given antidepressants, sedatives, and anti-psychotic medication. Often, these drugs were given in dosages which exceeded usual prescribed adult levels."

The drugs placed them "in

a constant stupor". They also "increased their vulnerability to emotional, physical and sexual abuse".

Concerns about the medication were raised at the time. "All were either ignored, rebuked, ridiculed or belittled."

Wider concerns were raised in the late 1970s and early 1980s and these "received ministerial comment".

Police were aware of allegations of offences.

One former resident contacted Kent police in 1993 requesting an update on progress regarding an



Kendall House in Kent

allegation they made in the early 1980s. Police said that "no further evidence was identified and they took no more action".

The same former resident contacted police in the late

1990s and in 2000 about the allegations. It was twice decided that "no further action was required".

In 2006 Kent police were informed of "further serious allegations by other former residents". The Crown Prosecution Service "determined not to proceed further".

The report said the dioceses of Rochester and Canterbury delayed investigating which "hindered the identification of individuals who may have been involved in abusive activity".

Sadie Robinson

People beat back coup but danger lurks ahead

Resistance in Turkey has defeated the military—but it now faces repression, writes **Charlie Kimber**

A COUP attempt in Turkey which aimed to remove president Recep Tayyip Erdogan was beaten back by mass mobilisation last weekend.

It was a serious threat. The Turkish army has toppled elected governments four times in the past 70 years.

The coup began late on Friday evening as soldiers and tanks came on to the streets of Istanbul and the capital Ankara. Fighter jets swooped over rooftops.

The parliament building was bombed and the state broadcaster forced to read out a message saying the military wanted “to reinstate constitutional order, human rights and freedoms”.

For over an hour it looked likely that the coup would succeed.

But then thousands of people came out to oppose the coup.

They lay in front of tanks, and demonstrated outside airports and at the bridge over the Bosphorus strait which had been blocked by troops.

Firing

One eyewitness described how “The soldiers shouted at people to leave, but they wouldn’t, so they started firing into the air.

“At first the people started to back up, but more and more people were coming into the square, and within minutes they pushed back again.”

In Istanbul waiters and chefs still in uniforms were joined in opposing the military by people abandoning their night out.

It wasn’t only supporters of Erdogan who came onto the streets.

Thousands of others who hate Erdogan’s authoritarian regime knew a military coup would mean even more brutal repression.

Erdogan is currently waging a bloody war against the Kurdish people. But Kurdish groups, including the HDP party, denounced the coup.

Almost 300 people died in the battle to repulse the military. The

BACK STORY

Recip Tayyip Erdogan has been president since his Justice and Development Party (AKP) first won elections in 2002

● This brought him into conflict with some in the army

● Erdogan jailed dozens of generals after a conspiracy was exposed in 2008

● But since restarting the war against the Kurds, Erdogan has had to rely more on the army

● The Turkish army toppled four elected governments in 70 years

government blames Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen, who is currently in exile in the US, for the coup.

Suleyman Soylu, Turkey’s minister of labour, even said, “The United States is behind the coup.”

Both the US and German governments waited several hours before condemning the coup. They may have waited until they saw it was failing.

But it seems far more likely that those responsible come from the armed forces.

Sections of the armed forces feel that Erdogan is too Islamic and has spurned the military in favour of his own power base.

Erdogan’s regime is determined to bolster its rule after the coup attempt.

It has arrested at least 6,000 people, including 29 top generals. It has also dismissed nearly 3,000 judges and prosecutors.

The bloody repression in Egypt after the generals removed an Islamic-based government shows why people were right to oppose the coup.

The popular mobilisation that defeated it must now be used to build resistance to the regime.



More online

Socialist Workers Party statement on the coup bit.ly/29Im9wK

PROTESTERS CELEBRATE after capturing an army tank

The generals hadn’t reckoned on the people resisting them on the streets

by **RON MARGULIES** in Turkey

DETAILS OF the coup continue to come out as I write. The plotters, acting outside the chain of command, forcibly arrested the chiefs of forces.

F-16 jets bombed parliament, the headquarters of the secret services and the police known to be loyal to the government.

Lists were ready of generals who were to replace ministers and provincial governors.

Clearly, it was expected that the rest of the armed forces would fall in line once the coup appeared to be successful. This did not happen.

Mistakes

The plotters made two mistakes. First, they failed to capture Erdogan. Second, they did not reckon on ordinary people standing up to them. This had never happened in previous coups.

Erdogan flew from an Aegean holiday resort to Istanbul and issued a call from the airport for people to go out into the streets and resist.

They did, in their thousands. This made it extremely difficult

for a conscript army to establish control.

It’s not that the crowds fought the troops. What they did was to show the rest of the armed forces that the coup could only succeed if thousands were massacred.

This was too much for them to stomach and most of the armed forces command refused to join in with the plotters. The attempt then quickly unravelled.

On Monday the media carried photographs of the leading plotters

arrested, handcuffed and clearly roughed up. They included the retired Chief of the Air Force Akin Ozturk, who was to become the new Chief of Staff.

Discussion now, on the left and more generally, centres on what happens next. The government has become more and more authoritarian in recent years.

Barbaric

It has disregarded democracy, the rule of law and press freedom. It has, in the past year, waged a barbaric war against the Kurds.

Having repulsed the coup, Erdogan will feel stronger. No doubt his instinct will be to continue to ride roughshod over democracy, human rights and Kurdish demands for recognition and equal citizenship.

It is for us to ensure that he can’t do so. We have to argue that it was democracy, not Erdogan, that won the day against the generals.

Ron Margulies is a member of the Revolutionary Socialist Workers Party (DSIP) in Turkey. His article What are we to do with Islam? The case of Turkey, appears in the latest International Socialism journal bit.ly/29OLMx4

Plotter Akin Ozturk after his arrest

Thousands join demonstration against racism and austerity

Marchers threw down the gauntlet to Theresa May and her new unelected Tory government with a united show of determination and defiance on the streets of London last Saturday

AROUND 10,000 people joined the No to Austerity, No to Racism, Tories Out demonstration in London last Saturday. It was organised by Stand Up to Racism and the People's Assembly.

Hundreds also rallied in Glasgow. They gave an important show of anti-racist unity and an immediate challenge to the new Tory prime minister Theresa May.

Marchers made clear there will be a continuing battle against austerity, and a refusal to allow racism to divide us. Many were also strongly in support of Jeremy Corbyn.

PCS union rep Karen thought Theresa May would be "useless—but there isn't anyone in that party who would be any good".

She hoped for an early general election to get the Tories out. "I do wish the Labour right would stop backbiting against Jeremy Corbyn and focus on the real enemy instead," she added.

Mia from Lancaster said, "It's important to march against racism because people can start to turn against each other in times of austerity."

Tim, a Unison union rep and library worker in Lewisham, south east London, said, "Lewisham Council, which is run by Labour, wants to close four libraries."

Strike

"We're going to strike on Wednesday and keep striking until they stop the library cuts. We're also going to lobby the council when the mayor and cabinet meet on Wednesday."

"The Tories are in disarray—Labour councils need to stop cuts. And Labour MPs need to stop attacking Corbyn so we can all take on the Tories."

The most popular placards were anti-racist.

Rose Alexis said, "I'm here to support Black Lives Matter, Corbyn and to provide solidarity with refugees. We need to link up all these struggles."

Student Sarah from Cambridge said, "I'm just here to show solidarity with refugees. It's something that shouldn't even be a question—it's about being a decent human being."

Ian, a researcher from York and a recent recruit to both the Labour Party and Labour left group Momentum, said, "I came to the protest because I'm worried at how the far right and racists feel legitimised by the Brexit decision."

"We need to show them they don't speak for the majority."

Lindsey from Momentum added, "Not everyone who voted Leave was



ON THE march in London last Saturday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

a racist and we need to mobilise against racist attacks."

Council worker Duncan was one of ten marchers from two Unison branches in Manchester.

He said, "I was glad when I heard the referendum result. I voted out—it was clear to me it wasn't about racism."

"But it's good that people who voted in are here—now the vote is over we need to stand together."

Duncan added, "The attacks are going to continue even if the Tories have a new leader—and history shows we can only get anything if we demonstrate."



On other pages...

Black Lives Matter protesters in Britain speak out >> Pages 10&11

Full steam ahead

THERE ARE two key dates in the fight against racism and austerity that every activist should mobilise for in October.

The first Tory Party conference with Theresa May as leader takes place in Birmingham in October. A mass demonstration outside is planned

on Sunday 2 October, backed by the People's Assembly.

Then Stand Up to Racism is set to hold its first national conference in central London on Saturday 8 October.



PCS union rep Karen

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

'Together we can win'

IN PARLIAMENT Square speakers put out a clear call for resistance.

Weyman Bennett, co-convenor of Stand Up to Racism, said, "I was asked by a TV station if we're confident to confront what's in front of us. I said yes."

"You hear that Theresa May is strong. This is rubbish. The Tories are divided. People are suffering. But blame the Tories, the bosses, the bankers—not migrants and refugees."

Mona Kamal, a junior doctor, said, "It's no coincidence that the lies we are told about immigrants come from the same people championing austerity."

"The fact that Theresa May had kept Jeremy Hunt as health secretary shows her commitment to privatisation."

Talha Ahmad from the Muslim Council of Britain said, "In Turkey we saw that tanks and bullets are useless when people stand firm."

"We will fill the squares and the streets of this country against this government."

Lindsey German, convenor of Stop the War, said, "Tony Blair took us to war on the basis of lies."

"The people paying the price are the millions of Iraqis and the Muslims of Europe faced with huge waves of islamophobia and racism."

Sam Fairbairn from the People's Assembly, NUS vice president for Further Education Shakira Martin and Antonia Bright from Movement for Justice also spoke.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn sent a message to the march.

Oktay Sahbaz from the Turkish and Kurdish organisation Day-Mer

condemned the coup in Turkey and said,

"We want to be part of the fight against austerity and racism."

"Our need for solidarity is growing every day."

Time to join Labour?

I'M AN ex-member of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), but still broadly in agreement with the party's political line. So I have always been opposed to revolutionaries entering the Labour Party.

For me this has never been a matter of pure principle but of practical timing. In "normal" times, there is always the danger of wasting time and energy banging one's head against a brick wall.

But I am convinced that we are no longer living in "normal" times. It's no longer adequate to stand on the sidelines cheering on Jeremy Corbyn while having no active part in the struggle to get him re-elected.

I'm not suggesting that the SWP forms a covert faction within Labour. But I do think individual comrades should consider joining up—at least temporarily.

Jake Douglas
North London

●THE relationship between Labour MPs and members was described by Richard Crossman back in 1963.

He said, "The Labour Party required militants, politically conscious socialists to do the work of organising the constituencies."

"But since these militants tended to be 'extremists' a constitution was needed which maintained their enthusiasm by apparently creating a full party democracy while excluding them from effective power." This rift is now erupting.

Graham
West London



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Where can I turn now that Bernie Sanders let us down?

I FEEL betrayed and let down. I've backed Bernie Sanders all the way in his campaign to be the Democratic Party candidate for US president. Now he has backed Hillary Clinton.

OK, he would have lost at the very undemocratic Democratic convention, but he didn't have to back her. He could have run as an independent and it would have been brilliant.

The main argument I hear is that Bernie has backed Clinton because we have to stop Trump. But there's really worrying news.

Opinion polls show that Trump is ahead of Clinton in several key states. He's ahead in Pennsylvania and Florida, and about level in Ohio.

Forget about the overall polls. Most states are won by big majorities for one party or the other, and then a few "swing states" decide the outcome.

Trump is doing well among a section of people who feel let down and are angry at the system. Bernie could reach out to them, Clinton can't.

Maybe this will change, but in any case Clinton is not going to be anything but a right wing president. She is for the military, she is for the rich, she is for the corporations.

Bernie spent months telling us she was Wall Street's candidate and he was right.

It's a fraud to say she will be accountable to anyone except the

rich and powerful.

I now have to decide whether to vote for the Green Party's Jill Stein or to not vote at all. But perhaps I also have to double down on activism.

It's great to see the Black Lives Matter protests in Britain. Some of them are as big as the ones here!

I'm going to get more into these and to look for other ways to make a difference whoever wins.

I hope your Jeremy Corbyn can stay at the top of his party.

And if they get rid of him, let's hope he doesn't do like Sanders and tell people to transfer to whoever the party establishment wants.

Hannah Shillingstone
Boston, Massachusetts

No more pessimism—our rulers are in crisis

IT'S INCREDIBLE how pessimistic some on the left are. The British ruling class is exposed as incompetent charlatans and afraid of the consequences.

Capitalism is unstable and crises are part of that.

One socialist told me recently that Margaret Thatcher's resignation only led to John Major "who was no better".

This was a way of explaining that Theresa May will be no better, and

possibly worse, than David Cameron.

If you don't believe our side can fight and can win then the best you can hope for is for the "least-worse" Tory to stay in office.

I think, for all its contradictions, we have entered a new period of possibilities in which working people can rediscover the power to fight back and to win.

Sasha Simic
East London

Riding the freedom bus in Yorkshire

THE SOUTH Yorkshire Freedom Riders are stepping up the fight against bus service cuts in Barnsley.

The council and the bus companies are consulting on changes in bus services. The bus cuts will make life more difficult for everyone. Older people are already restricted by the removal



Tony Nuttall on a Freedom Riders protest

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

of free local train travel.

These cuts will make it even more difficult for them to get out and about in the community. What's the point of having a bus pass if there are no buses

where you live?

We will be holding a meeting followed by a demonstration this Thursday.

Tony Nuttall
Barnsley

Just a thought...

Why defend Corbyn?

I'M CONFUSED as to why Socialist Worker says we have to defend Jeremy Corbyn.

He is not a socialist and all the Labour Party does in power is act as caretakers for British capitalism.

Steven Johnston
Stockport

●CORBYN showed no solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable in Britain or the European Union (EU). The EU exploits workers and the poor.

That's something someone who claims to be a socialist should have highlighted during the EU debate.

Corbyn didn't—he left the poorest floundering without representation.

That's why I can't support him now. Sorry JC, but you blew it dude.

Keila Hawkmore
on Facebook

●I AM a man on the left and in my seventies.

When I heard Jeremy was on the ballot I nearly cried.

Stephen Coyle
on Facebook

Nukes only protect profits

TRIDENT IS a total waste of money. All it does is make Britain a legitimate nuclear target. And for what?

So that the arms manufacturers, their stockholders and their bought and paid for corrupt politicians can make money.

Martyn Meacham
on Facebook

Blair is not the only one

TONY BLAIR should be put in the dock over the Iraq war.

And so should the rest of the murdering mob—John Howard from Australia and George Bush from the US.

Liz Ross
Melbourne, Australia

Shame on Esso bosses

WHAT'S GOING on at Esso's oil refinery in Southampton is disgusting—to pay migrant workers half of what others earn is a disgrace (online, bit.ly/29IHZQk).

Margaret Woods
Glasgow

'We're young but we're political'

Capres Turner called a protest that saw central London's Oxford Street blocked two weeks ago

BLACK PEOPLE are targeted and they can see it. Things are set up for us to fail. But we're conscious and we want change.

We have power and we need to use it.

Similar things are happening here as in the US.

By providing solidarity with the US and linking together different campaigns against racism here we can build a movement to fight back.

It's not a natural thing for people to hold racist ideas. Racism is something you're taught.

With campaigns and protests and

things like this we can teach people about racism and how to overcome it.

Capitalism tells us to think of ourselves as individuals but that's not how it should be. People need

to understand it's about the system.

When David Cameron passes a comment in parliament about refugees it echoes through society. We're communicating a political stance against that.

The movement has been led by young people and although we're young, we're political. The mainstream media can try and paint us as impressionable or idealistic but we're clear we need to target the Conservatives and get their attention.

We need to think of our aims and work out the next steps to take to put the pieces together.



Capres



'Anyone with a heart is angered'

For Lydia Mbanza, recent Black Lives Matter protests have been her first political campaign

AFTER ALL the riots and bloodshed in the US over the centuries, it saddens me that individuals are still at risk of losing their lives because of the reaction to the colour of their skin.

And the people committing these crimes are still getting away with it.

Regardless of their history, or the reason they've been approached by the police, people are being murdered in cold blood.

Since when was murder a way of restraint? When did that become a norm for the black man or woman in the US?

What's happening over there and even over here is a monstrosity.

We need to come together as a people and that's why I chose to protest.

I think the protests are so massive because it's been broadcast all over the world. The world has had a glimpse of the gruesome reality of police brutality.

Everyone who has a heart has been touched and wants to support the movements as things do need to change.

It angers me and I'm sure it's triggered anger in a lot of people.

OUR FURY MATTERS



A Black Lives Matter protest in Leeds last week
PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

Thousands of people protested across Britain in recent weeks to insist that "Black Lives Matter". Called in response to a series of police killings in the US, the protests have struck a chord with many young people angry at racism in Britain too. Black activists in London told Socialist Worker about why they are marching—and how to win

'We're on the streets to be heard'

Ikram Ahmed makes documentaries for Fully Focused Productions. She protested in Brixton

LOTS OF young people are frustrated with the current system. We feel like we're not being heard so coming out on the streets is the way to get our voices heard.

We need to continue the wave we're on and not slow down unless we see some real change.

I don't look towards politicians.

This is happening because if the politicians did actually care they would have already made a decision in parliament and we wouldn't have to be marching. I'm not

sure what people expected from Obama. He couldn't change the system because that's not something that will happen through one person.

People have made a lot of excuses for him just because he's black.

One thing that does give me hope about change being made is the new Labour leadership. The old way, Tony Blair's way, of doing things is changing.

But you can't expect everything to be handed to you on a plate, we still need to be the ones pushing the boundaries.



No excuses—US president Barack Obama

'To end racism, end capitalism'

Gary McFarlane is a freelance journalist who has written for publications including The Voice

THE PROTESTS have caught on because they're part of a general picture.

The outrage about the killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile has come at a time when there's a huge amount of anger in British society about racism and austerity.

In Britain black people are 35 times more likely to be stopped and searched than white people.

The European Union referendum saw a hugely racist campaign from both sides and this has given confidence to racists.

It follows the disgusting Tory campaign against Sadiq Khan in the London mayoral election, and racism directed against refugees that's calculated to stoke up divisions.

Racism doesn't exist in a vacuum. It's part of a growing picture in society of isolation and alienation.

In order to

maintain their rule, the powerful deliberately whip up racism.

The endemic racism in the US and in Britain is a part of capitalist society.

People on the demonstrations want a militant fight against racism and are receptive to the idea of the need to fight and defeat capitalism.

On the demonstrations on Oxford Street, people marched past buses and a lot of drivers put their fists out of the windows in a sign of support.

Organised socialists can help to widen and deepen the struggle by arguing for the need to link up with workers.

We need Black Lives Matter activists to go to workplaces—into factories, bus garages and hospitals—and argue for trade unionists to join the struggle.

If we're going to defeat racism we need to defeat capitalism.

To do that we need to mobilise the force that makes capitalism work, the working class.



Gary

'Take control—the unjust system is the problem'

Kayla Robertson is a student from New York now living in London

I WAS MARCHING with Black Lives Matter and going to meetings when I was still in school.

We marched every week since the failure to prosecute police officer Darren Wilson who killed Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014.

We heard about the solidarity marches that happened all over the world.

Hearing that there was one in London made me excited to come here.

One of the huge parallels between what has been going on in the US and what's happening in Britain is that young people are coming out and marching.



Kayla

They're taking control of what they want to do, what they want to say and taking control of where they want the movement to go.

It's really important to get organised. A lot of people putting on these marches didn't expect the amount of people to come who showed up.

And these instances of racism aren't only against black people. There were people on the march that had "Asians for Black Lives Matter" placards.

At the same time there's racial discrimination against Asians so we need people to come together and fix this unjust system.

The US was built on the backs of black slaves.

It's hard to dismantle a system that has been around for centuries.

You expect US president Barack Obama to support Black Lives Matter, but he's backed into a position where if he does he can't actually say so.

It's the system that's the problem.

His whole campaign was about hope but there is not much hope for black people in the US today.

The biggest victory of the movement is that people are talking about what it is to be black in the US.

It's become a national conversation.

'Not a single black MP has come out to support us'

Student Anthony Hamilton is author of A Rebel's Guide to Malcolm X

THE PEOPLE on these demonstrations are young, working class and new to activism.

On Tuesday of last week we marched on parliament and started chanting, "Theresa May, out!"

The debates on the protests have been wide-ranging.

Someone was arguing that we need more black-owned businesses or black people in positions of power to get rid of racism.

That can make sense to people when they see white business owners and politicians pursuing



Anthony

racist policies.

But not a single black MP in Britain has come out to support these protests.

Barack Obama hasn't really done anything either. That's even though after the killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner in 2014 he stood up and said he'd never let anything like this happen again.

Just getting black people into high places doesn't change anything. It's all about the movement on the streets.

I think people are starting to get that. Many have been showing interest in socialist ideas.

The important thing for the movement is maintaining the

momentum and deepening the anti-establishment feeling.

Although politics are all over the place at the moment and people are confused, clear revolutionary politics are gaining a hearing.



Protesters in Leeds. More pictures at socialistworker.co.uk/art/43083/B

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY



Part of the London demonstration last Saturday (see page 8)

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

ESSEX

The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Thu 4 Aug, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd,
CM1 2QL

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

What is fascism and how do we fight it?

Wed 27 Jul, 6pm,
Belmont Cinema Cafe,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BARNSELY

Do we need violence to get socialism?

Thu 28 Jul, 6.30pm,
YMCA, Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BOLTON

After Chilcot—blood on Blair's hands

Thu 28 Jul, 6.30pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

Engels, the family, private property and the state

Thu 4 Aug, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane
(opposite the ice rink),
BD5 0BQ

BRIGHTON

Black lives matter—race, class and revolt in the US

Thu 28 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St, BN1 1AF

BRISTOL

The Iraq War, its legacy and Labour today

Wed 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY

After Chilcot—blood on Blair's hands

Wed 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St. James's St,
BB11 1NR

CAMBRIDGE

What would socialism look like?

Thu 28 Jul, 7.30pm,
Signal Box,
Glenalmond Avenue (off
Clarendon Rd), CB2 8DB

CARDIFF

A rebel's guide to Malcolm X

Wed 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace, CF24 4HX

SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS



Rallying to defend Corbyn

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Corbyn, the Labour Party and the struggle for socialism

EDINBURGH

Wed 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

LONDON: BRIXTON

Wed 27 Jul, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd,
facing Windrush Square),
SW2 1EP

LONDON: ISLINGTON

Thu 28 Jul, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St,
N7 6QT

LONDON: KINGSTON

Thu 28 Jul, 7pm,
Kingston Quaker Centre,
Fairfield East,
KT1 2PT

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Wed 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),
E17 4QU

NEWCASTLE

Thu 28 Jul, 7pm,
facing Windrush Square,
Market St, NE1 6HQ

COVENTRY

The anti-union laws—how they were beaten in the past and lessons for today

Wed 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near
both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

DUDLEY

The fight for trans liberation—resistance and solidarity

Wed 27 Jul, 8pm,
The What Centre,
23 Coventry St,
Stourbridge, DY8 1EP

DUNDEE

Food riots to food banks

Wed 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

EXETER

Do we need system change to stop climate change?

Thu 28 Jul, 7pm,
New Horizon Cafe,
47 Longbrook St,
EX4 6AW

HUDDERSFIELD

After Chilcot—blood on Blair's hands

Wed 27 Jul, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near
both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Zionism and antisemitism

Thu 28 Jul, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

Why we say open borders—let the refugees in

Thu 4 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Caledonia,
22 Caledonia St,
L7 7DX

LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

After Chilcot—blood on Blair's hands

Thu 28 Jul, 7.30pm,
Maida Hill Place,
2-4 Fernhead Rd,
W9 3ET

LONDON: EALING

Is there a human nature?

Thu 28 Jul, 7.30pm,
West London Trade Union Club,
33-35 High St, Acton,
W3 6ND

LONDON: HACKNEY

What do socialists say about the mental health crisis?

Thu 28 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON: NEWHAM

What would a revolution look like?

Wed 27 Jul, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next to
Morrisons car park), E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTHWARK

Is Marx still relevant today?

Thu 28 Jul, 7pm,
Camberwell Leisure
Centre (Room 2),
Artichoke Place (off
Camberwell Church St),
SE5 8TS

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

What would a revolution look like?

Wed 27 Jul, 7pm,
Chorlton Central Church
(Meeting Room),
Barlow Moor Rd, M21 8BF

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

Marxism and religion

Thu 28 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT AND LEVENSHULME

Politics of mental health

Thu 28 Jul, 7.30pm,
Inspire,
747 Stockport Rd,
M19 3AR

MEDWAY

Black lives matter—race class and revolt in the US

Thu 4 Aug, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St, ME4 4BP

NORWICH

The case against immigration controls

Thu 28 Jul, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

In the month of Chilcot—art and war

Wed 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd, NG1 3FN

OXFORD

Spain 1936—a revolution against fascism

Wed 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
Restore, Manzil Way (off
Cowley Rd), OX4 1YH

PLYMOUTH

Marxism and the fight against racism

Thu 4 Aug, 7pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain, PL4 6LF

POOLE

Defending the NHS

Mon 15 Aug, 7.30pm,
Butler & Hops,
88 High St, BH15 1DB

PORTSMOUTH

After Chilcot—jail war criminal Blair

Wed 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
Southsea Community Centre,
St Paul's Square, PO5 4EE

ROTHERHAM

Black lives matter—the fight against racism in the US

Wed 10 Aug, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist
Church Centre,
Moorgate St, S60 2EY

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Turkey and the Kurds

Thu 28 Jul, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible
Theatre), S1 2JB

SWANSEA

The united front in theory and practice

Thu 11 Aug, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

YORK

The fight for fast food workers' rights

Wed 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

BIRMINGHAM

Unwelcome Tory Conference to Birmingham 2016

Sun 2 Oct, 12 noon.
Go to Unwelcome Tory Party
Conference to Birmingham
2016 on Facebook

DORCHESTER

Report back from Convoy to Calais

Mon 1 Aug, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club,
Colliton Park,
DT1 1XJ.

Organised by Dorset Socialists

LONDON

1966 and not all that

Book launch with
Mark Perryman and
Michael Lavalette.
Tue 26 Jul, 6.30pm,
Bookmarks Bookshop,
1 Bloomsbury St,
WC1B 3QE

NATIONAL

Stand Up to Racism Conference

Sat 8 Oct, 10am,
Friends Meeting House,
173-177 Euston Rd,
NW1 2BJ.

standuptoracism.org.uk

Marxism and Nature

Sat 15 Oct,
10.30am,
Central London,
WC2E 9RZ

isj.org.uk

SCOTLAND

Marxism Festival Scotland 2016

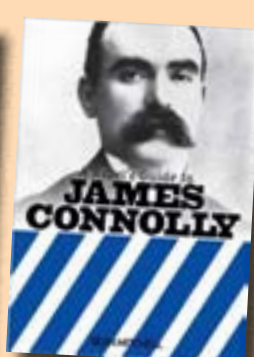
Sat 29 Oct, 10am,
Renfield St Stephen's,
260 Bath St,
Glasgow,
G2 4JP

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Touching tales amid cliché of The People's History of Pop

Stories of anti-racist reggae and escapism at Wigan Pier survive BBC4's stale series to show glimpses of music's transformative power, says **Trevor Jones**

THE PEOPLE'S History of Pop is a nostalgia trip. It is, with a couple of exceptions, devoid of politics, presented in a cliché-ridden format, and guilty of at least one unforgivable omission.

The programme's focus is on ordinary people's attachment to the music of the period.

It generally examines British artists who had a global impact and their fans.

There are a couple of exceptions — Bob Marley's impact on black British youth and Jimi Hendrix's appearance at the Isle of Wight festival in 1970.

But considering who is missed, I found the inclusion of extensive coverage of Marc Bolan out of place.

We get three separate fan accounts of the appearances of Jimi Hendrix at the Isle of Wight festival, the Doors at the same, and the emergence of Black Sabbath.

Sadly, these accounts are oddly muted and feel a little rehearsed.

The fans' contributions are mostly ahistorical anecdotes, interspersed with the usual stock, archival photos of worshipful teens.

Danny Baker serves up a pretty anodyne commentary to proceedings.

History

Nothing new, either, is added to the history of The Beatles or Marc Bolan. In fact, there isn't much examination of the music as a medium itself at all.

There's virtually no attempt to draw on fans' experience of what was a culturally explosive period.

Nevertheless, DJ Tiny T gives a touching account of the emergence of Bob Marley and reggae in Britain.

Tiny talks of how, as a young, black schoolboy, Marley was the first



JIMI HENDRIX at the Isle of Wight festival in August 1970

role model he could identify with. There's a fascinating tale of the appearance of Marley and Johnny Nash at Peckham Manor school in 1972.

Arts Teacher Keith Baugh and ex-pupil George Dyer put on the gig.

They talk excitedly about Marley and Nash's performance on and off stage—Marley was apparently adept at keezy-uppy in the playground,

simultaneously holding his guitar.

DJ Tiny goes on to say, "Reggae has done more for race relations in England than a lot of things."

"This is where I managed to integrate, away from school, with other races, and when you're enjoying something, you've now got a common cause."

This account is the only moment where a political context is explicitly

stated. It speaks to the vital identification for many young blacks with a transformative music that involved a unifying class experience.

There's also a nod to class in fan Cheryl Saunders' honest and impassioned account of Northern Soul and the all-nighters at Wigan Pier.

There, mostly white working class women and men danced to underground, mostly black, soul and Tamla Motown.

Weekend

This is the working class "living for the weekend"—enjoying a vital escape from the alienating experience of the weekly grind of industrial labour.

Despite these brief moments of insight, the programme is mostly a familiar, dull retread of nostalgic format.

The omission of Dusty Springfield is baffling. Dusty was instrumental in bringing black American soul artists to British TV screens.

Her TV show, *It Must Be Dusty*, was highly successful and she was also involved in the *Ready Steady Go* Motown Special broadcast.

Including her could also have redressed the gender imbalance of the programme.

Springfield's influence on the music of the time, and her relevance to this day, exemplify the unifying nature of popular music.

It is a shame that *The People's History of Pop* makes little effort to do the same.

The People's History of Pop is a four-part series on BBC4. Episode Two, 1966-1976—*The Love Affair*, will be screened on Friday 22 July at 9.30pm. Go to bbc.in/29JqCTq for more details

Cinema helped shape the people's perception of war

EXHIBITION

REAL TO REEL: A CENTURY OF WAR MOVIES

Imperial War Museum
London. Until 8 January 2017.
iwm.org.uk

THIS EXHIBITION crams an enormous amount of information and artefacts into a limited space.

It shows excerpts from major films along with wartime artefacts and set designs from films including *The Dam Busters*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Das Boot* and *Casablanca*.

The century of the

title starts with the 1916 documentary *The Battle of the Somme*.

It was seen by more than 20 million people in six weeks and led to an increase in the popularity of cinema.

During the Second World War and the following decade, cinema was the dominant form of culture. Millions visited the picture palaces for a luxurious environment that provided a refuge from rationing, fuel shortages and the fear of bombing.

The films in this



A scene from 1916 documentary *The Battle of the Somme*

exhibition would have been shown with a newsreel and possibly a government information film. One interactive panel shows how British and German governments appreciated the effectiveness of film.

It offers excerpts from a feature film, newsreel footage, and information shorts in English and German.

The German film, virulently antisemitic, was commissioned by Nazi propaganda minister Josef Goebbels in 1939, as Hitler was concerned

that people did not share his fanatical hatred of Jews.

Cinema has helped to shape the perception and understanding of war.

Arguably, it also helped to construct the myth of Britishness by emphasising what the curator called "British qualities of pluck, fortitude, stoicism and eccentricity."

This exhibition is not cheap at £10 for a full price ticket.

But it offers a feast of nostalgia while raising important questions.

Sarah Cox

FILM

THE BFG

Directed by Steven Spielberg.
On general release 22 July

THIS IS a new adaptation of the 1982 novel by Roald Dahl.

It tells the story of an orphan, Sophie, who meets a Big Friendly Giant (BFG) and goes off to his homeland.

Wars with other giants lead them to enlist the queen for help.

The original 1989 film was unfortunately quite pro-monarchy—hopefully Spielberg's version won't be the same.

The film is released in the year that marks 100 years since the birth of



An illustration from the BFG

Roald Dahl. A series of events to commemorate the anniversary are planned across Britain and December.

They include themed trails through the gardens at Tatton Park in Cheshire and activity weeks at the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre in Buckinghamshire.

An exhibition of Quentin Blake's original illustrations for the BFG include drawings that were not included—and show a BFG that might have been.

For a full list of events go to roalddahl.co.uk

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- 1 **The alternative white paper for higher education**
- 2 **A rebel's guide to Malcolm X**
- 3 **Marxism and ecology**
- 4 **Syria—revolution, counter-revolution and war**
- 5 **When Adam delved and Eve span—a history of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381**

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

ON 27 June 1905, Big Bill Haywood, the Secretary Treasurer of the Western Federation of Miners, opened the founding convention of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

The delegates were gathered there, he told them, to establish an organisation that “shall have as its purpose the emancipation of the working class from the slave bondage of capitalism”.

It was the intention of the IWW “to put the working class in possession of the economic power...the machinery of production and distribution without regard to capitalist masters”.

The IWW, known to millions as the Wobblies, were “founded on the class struggle, having in view no compromise and no surrender and but one object... and that is to bring the workers of this country into the possession of the full value of their toil”.

The IWW was a revolutionary trade union, organised along industrial lines, and set up in deliberate opposition to the conservative unions in the American Federation of Labour (AFL).

Organising

From the very beginning it set about organising black and Asian workers, many of whom were barred from membership of AFL unions.

It organised women workers and the unskilled.

The IWW was a democratic union, controlled by its members and not by a clique of full-time officials.

It championed free speech and supported the cause of birth control.

It was committed to waging unrelenting class war against the employers until capitalism was overthrown and a socialist order achieved.

The US ruling class did not ignore this challenge.

A determined attempt was made to crush the Western Federation of Miners (WFM).

By early 1906, Haywood and the WFM president, Bill Moyer, were on trial for their lives.

The Pinkertons were a large organisation of strike-breaking private detectives.

They attempted to frame the pair for murder and have them judicially lynched.

Haywood and Moyer were

“Unrelenting class war against the employers until capitalism is overthrown



AN INDUSTRIAL Workers of the World poster

charged with ordering the murder of a former Governor of Idaho.

The only witness against them was the actual assailant, Harry Orchard, an admitted multiple murderer, bigamist and company spy.

But the Pinkertons were confident that they could railroad the two men to their deaths with the help of an anti-union press blitz that was endorsed by US president Theodore Roosevelt.

The Socialist Party of America (SPA) rallied to their cause.

On 10 March 1906, Eugene Debs, the SPA leader, warned that if the ruling class attempted to hang the two men “a million revolutionists, at least, would meet them with guns”.

Inspired by the 1905 Revolution in Russia, he threatened “a general strike... as a preliminary to a general uprising”.

MASSIVE demonstrations in support of the two men were held across the US. Even while awaiting trial, Haywood stood as the SPA candidate for Governor of Idaho, winning 16,000 votes.

When Roosevelt condemned Haywood as “an undesirable citizen”, thousands of people took to wearing “I am an undesirable citizen” badges.

On 28 July 1907, after eighteen months in prison, Haywood was found not guilty and released, a popular hero to the US left.

Haywood was never anti-political. As far as he was concerned both the IWW and the Socialist Party had important parts to play in the class struggle.

The revolutionary union had the decisive role. It would organise the workers to take direct control of the means of production and distribution and to eventually overthrow the ruling class by means of the general strike.

Nevertheless, the Socialist Party also had an important propagandist role to play



“Bread or revolution”—Demonstrating in New York for the IWW in 1914



BIG BILL VS U.S. BOSSES

Big Bill Haywood was a giant of the US workers’ movement. John Newsinger has edited a new collection of Haywood’s journalism and writes on the life of the revolutionary

and those socialists elected into office could use their positions to assist in building the union.

The problem with this approach was that it did not recognise the uneven level of working class consciousness.

So, except during a revolutionary period, the majority of workers would not support a revolutionary organisation.

The IWW led a number of mass strikes, fought with great determination, courage and militancy, against often murderous employers.

But even when victorious, it was not successful in establishing a permanent union base.

Not until after the Bolshevik Revolution was the role of the revolutionary party recognised as the

way forward by the great majority of revolutionaries worldwide. That’s when its role organising the most politically advanced workers and working within the unions among the mass of the workers became clearer.

Haywood threw himself into the strikes that the IWW organised, eventually becoming

the organisation’s general secretary in 1914.

He led it during the First World War and during the massive repression, the Red Scare, that was unleashed against the left and that continued after the war.

He was one of the 14 leading Wobblies sentenced to 20 years in prison at the end

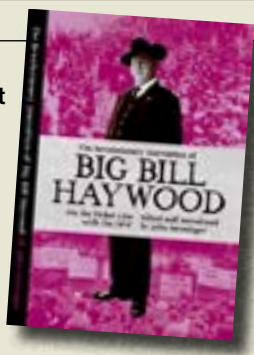
of the war. Wobbly militants were lynched, imprisoned and in much of the United States the IWW was effectively banned.

Haywood, in poor health, escaped to Soviet Russia. Here he was won over to Bolshevism and remained living in exile until his death in May 1928.

READ MORE

● **The Revolutionary Journalism of Big Bill Haywood—On the picket line with the IWW** edited by John Newsinger, £9.99

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



The fighting magazine of the working class

THE International Socialist Review (ISR) became an agitational journal in 1909, “The Fighting Magazine of the Working Class”, with a circulation rising from 6,000 in 1909 to 40,000 in 1911.

It was a remarkable publication.

Its contributors included Jack London, James Connolly, Eugene Debs, Margaret Sanger, John Reed and others.

Haywood joined its editorial board in October 1911 and wrote for it regularly.

He chronicled the class struggle, not only in New York, Lawrence, Little Falls, Paterson and Butte, but also in South Wales and Dublin.

His revolutionary journalism provides a vital insight into both the struggles of this period and in the development of revolutionary politics in the United States.

THE DETECTIVE

December 1911

A DETECTIVE is the lowest, meanest, most contemptible thing that either creeps or crawls, a thing to loath and despise.

A detective has the soul of a craven, the heart of a hyena.

He will barter the virtue of a pure woman or the character of an honest man.

He will go into the labor unions, the political party, the fraternal society, the business house, the church.

He will drag his slimy length into the sacred precincts of the family; there to create discord and cause unhappiness.

He breeds and thrives on the troubles of his own making. He is a maggot of his own corruption.

That you may know how small a detective is, you can take a hair and pinch the pith out of it and in the hollow hair you can put the hearts and souls of 40,000 detectives and they will still rattle.

You can pour them out on the surface of your thumb nail and the skin of a gnat will still make an umbrella for them.

When a detective dies he goes so low he has to climb up a ladder to get into hell, and he is not a welcome guest there. When his Satanic Majesty sees him coming, he says to his imps, “Go get a big bucket of pitch and a lot of sulphur, give them to that fellow and put him outside.

“Let him start a little hell of his own, we don’t want him in here starting trouble.”

There is not room enough in Hades for a detective.



“The IWW fought with great determination, against often murderous employers



Prioritising parliament gives more power to the right

Charlie Kimber looks at the Independent Labour Party (ILP), one of the founding organisations of the Labour Party

THE HISTORY of the ILP has important lessons for socialists. It shows the opportunities and pitfalls of organising both inside and outside Labour.

It was founded in 1893 by socialists who wanted a clean break from reliance on the Liberals.

It aimed “to secure the collective and communal ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange” and was a real step forward because it stressed class independence.

Its leaders included Keir Hardie, a new MP, and Ben Tillett who had headed the 1889 dock strike.

In 1900 the ILP became a central part of the broader Labour Representation Committee (LRC), the forerunner of the modern Labour Party.

The ILP’s leaders agreed that the only way to achieve change was through winning MPs.

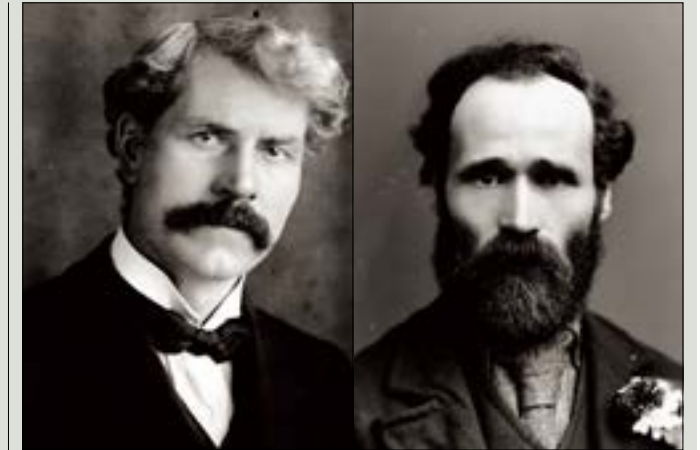
Building

At the party’s 1909 congress, ILP member Ramsay MacDonald insisted that “democratic government”—by which he meant parliament—was “essential to the building up of the socialist state”.

The ILP was not a revolutionary organisation. But it refused to back its own rulers when the First World War began.

In 1914 it proclaimed, “Out of the darkness we hail our working class comrades in every country”.

The ILP stood against the slaughter but was ineffective in stopping it. The 1917 Russian



Ramsay MacDonald (left) and Keir Hardie (right)

revolution electrified workers everywhere.

The ILP grew to around 750 branches and had tens of thousands of militant working class members. ILP figures again rose to the head of the Labour Party.

Instead of joining the new Communist Party (CP) the left wing in the ILP agreed to remain in Labour and to seek to win it as a whole to the CP.

But the pressure worked the other way. Revolutionary workers were corralled behind a rightward-moving Labour leadership that, for example, refused to support the 1926 general strike.

Then came the great slump of 1929. ILP member MacDonald, the Labour prime minister, was determined to implement vicious austerity.

When his cabinet colleagues hesitated, MacDonald formed a coalition government with the Tories and Liberals.

Within a year the ILP broke from Labour, taking over 15,000 of the best members and five MPs. The ILP moved sharply leftwards.

But Trotsky also insisted that “while breaking from the Labour Party, it was necessary immediately to turn towards it” and to seek united front work.

Degenerated

Instead the ILP degenerated. In 1936 its conference voted against the party leadership over what action to take after the Italian invasion of Ethiopia. MPs said they would resign—so the conference immediately reversed its policy.

Politically the ILP was dead. Revolutionaries need political clarity about the big questions in politics, whatever organisational roads they choose. And they need independent revolutionary organisation whatever structures they work in.

This is the first of a series of articles on socialists and the Labour Party

“The leaders agreed that the only way to get change was to win MPs



Do we say 'class first, race later'?

by YURI PRASAD

THE INSTITUTE of Race Relations has published its journal *Race and Class* highlighting the fight against racism in post-war Britain.

As the battle of Black Lives Matter rages on both sides of the Atlantic there would hardly be a better time for it.

Socialist Worker readers will doubtless relish the pieces that deal with largely hidden episodes in anti-racist and working class history.

The interview with Mickey Fenn, a socialist docker in east London during the turbulent 1960s and 1970s, is remarkable.

Its candid description of how shop stewards fought the racism that followed Enoch Powell's Rivers of Blood speech in 1968 has an unfortunate resonance.

But above all it shows the need to organise and take a stand even if you find yourself in a minority.

The article *Striking Back Against Racist Violence in East London, 1968-1970*

reveals a hidden tradition of black self-defence against attacks.

It also shows the growing divide between those who insisted on keeping the struggle within the limits of the state and those who looked to the "politics of the street".

Other pieces include an interview with Vishnu Sharma, who helped organise the 1965 Woolf Rubber strike.

It shows the degree of community solidarity that newly arrived migrants offered each other in the face of racist employers.

Agreement

There are many points on which *Race and Class* and *Socialist Worker* are in agreement, but there are also areas of difference.

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP), and the Anti-Nazi League it helped to launch in 1977, are on several occasions accused of insisting on "class first, race later".

It is true that we in the SWP have a different



A CAMPAIGN Against Racist Laws demonstration in 1981

emphasis than the tradition associated with *Race and Class*.

But the starting point has to be an honest account of each other's positions.

A casual reader could be forgiven for thinking that the SWP believes that racism will

inevitably be solved by class struggle. And that no special attention need be paid to how race and racism divides workers.

That claim is not borne out by either our practical activity or our theory.

The SWP's starting point

is that we stand with the oppressed when they are under attack, regardless of their class background.

We do not first ask whether the victim is a small business owner or worker, or whether they vote Tory or Labour.

We act by trying to organ-

ise the broadest and most radical response.

But it is true that as Marxists, we see class as vital to ending the system that creates oppression in the first place.

To that end, we fight against prejudice and chauvinism among workers in part because there can be no socialist future while we are divided.

Division

Like *Race and Class* we understand that those who share racial oppression are divided by class.

We both understand that this division shapes how people and groups respond.

There is a battle between those who want to work within the system and those who want to smash it.

On that question, as on many others, we and the contributors to the journal are absolutely united.

Race and Class: The Colour of Struggle, 1950s-1980s. *Race and Class* journal, July 2016, edited by Jenny Bourne, £5. Go to bit.ly/290TPZe

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New Tory cabinet is made of bankers, bullies and crooks

Socialist Worker's guide to the new set of right wing ministers who replaced the old ones last week



Philip Hammond Chancellor

HAMMOND TOOK up politics after feeling upset at Oxford University about strikes against the Heath Tory government that were "ruining the country".

He's good with money in the sense that he has lots of it—over £8.2 million. He achieved his worth from stakes in a health care and nursing home developer and "consultancy work".

He described the legalisation of same sex marriage as "damaging".



Amber Rudd Home secretary

RUDD attended Cheltenham Ladies' College. She was an investment banker at JP Morgan then moved into venture capital.

She was the "aristocracy co-ordinator" for the film Four Weddings and a Funeral.

She pushed fracking legislation through and reneged on pledges not to let the gas extraction process occur in national parks.

Rudd once claimed 27p for a 0.6 mile car journey.



Boris Johnson Foreign secretary

EUROPEAN UNION ministers and diplomats branded the Eton-educated Johnson a liar and a "borderline racist". Which is unfair—he is a racist to his marrow. Johnson wrote, "It is said that the Queen has come to love the Commonwealth, partly because it supplies her with regular cheering crowds of flag-waving piccaninnies."

He published an article that said, "Orientals have larger brains and higher IQ scores. Blacks are at the other pole."



Damian Green Work and Pensions

DAMIAN GREEN became the third work and pensions secretary of the year—so far. He took over from Stephen Crabb, who held the job for just 177 days. Crabb is embroiled in a sexting scandal and has strong religious beliefs. Green should fit in as a registered member of the affair-facilitating website Ashley Madison.

And the man in charge of "improving the life chances of the low paid" argued that the minimum wage was "immoral".



Andrea Leadsom Environment

THIS FORMER city slicker has relatives who are fond of avoiding tax.

Flavour of a day last week, Leadsom is now in charge of the fox hunting ban and wildlife.

During her brief campaign for the Tory leadership Leadsom backed scrapping the ban on hunting with dogs. She claimed, "It has not proven to be in the interests of animal welfare whatsoever".



Jeremy Hunt Health

"REPORTS OF my death have been greatly exaggerated," health secretary Jeremy Hunt pronounced as he was kept on as health secretary.

Shame, said thousands of health workers.

The friend of Rupert Murdoch has shown determination to push through attacks on doctors that will hit patient safety and pave the way for privatisation.



Justine Greening Education

GREENING WORKED as an accountant and finance manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Last month she announced she was in a "happy same-sex relationship". Previously she hung around the right wing eccentrics of the Young Britons foundation.

Once claimed, "I didn't come into politics to give money to poor people". Also claimed 10p expenses for bus fares.



Liam Fox International Trade

FORCED TO resign as defence secretary in 2011 after allowing his friend Adam Werritty to take on an unofficial and undeclared role as his adviser.

Werritty travelled the world bankrolled by a £147,000 slush fund called Pargav.

In 2012 Fox was ordered to repay £3,000 of expenses after allowing Werritty to live rent-free on his expenses.



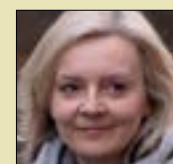
Michael Fallon Defence

WHEN NOT bombing other countries, Fallon is being a racist.

He has complained Britain is being "swamped by immigrants".

Fallon boasted in a leaflet during the last election that he has "taken a close interest in family issues".

This involved "voting against gay marriage and supporting parental responsibility".



Liz Truss Justice

BEFORE BECOMING Justice minister Truss argued in parliament, "This government inherited the most expensive criminal justice system per capita in the world."

She complained of the "£100 million being spent on administering legal aid" and the "extremely high cost per prison place".

Truss threatened, "There are many areas of savings".



Karen Bradley Culture

BRADLEY worked as a tax manager.

This will put her in good stead for advising celebrities on how to avoid tax.



David Davis Brexit

DAVIS VOTED against the repeal of Section 28, a law banning the "promotion of homosexual relationships" equalising the age of consent for gay men.



Chris Grayling Transport

ONCE ACCUSED Socialist Worker of hacking his emails to stop the Tories' workfare plans. He tried to abolish legal aid and ban prisoners from having books.



Priti Patel Int. Development

HER WORKING life began in Conservative Central Office in 1997. Patel once called for the department to be scrapped. Fan of the death penalty.

What happened to climate change?

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy and Climate Change no longer exists.

It merges with Business, Innovation and Skills to create an entirely new body—but the climate change element has been scrapped from the name.

It was scrapped from any interest from the government long ago.

IN BRIEF

Humiliation for the EDL Nazis in London

JUST 70 fascist English Defence League (EDL) supporters gathered for a “national” demonstration in London last Saturday. The racist protest targeted Muslims and refugees.

Police facilitated a short march by the Nazis while anti-fascists joined a counter-protest called by Unite Against Fascism. And the EDL was dwarfed by a 10,000-strong anti-racist, anti-austerity protest taking place in London on the same day (see page 8).

Shop fitters have built a pay strike

OVER 40 workers at the shop fitters HMY Radford struck on Thursday of last week over the firm’s refusal to offer a pay rise.

The Unite union members based in Burnopfield, County Durham, are also working to rule and refusing to do overtime.

They make shelving units and shop fittings for companies including Tesco and Vodafone.

Water workers pull plug on overtime

OVER 100 workers at water treatment works in the south west of England have begun an overtime ban after rejecting South West Water’s pay offer.

The workers are Unite union members. They were offered 1.8 percent plus a £120 unconsolidated lump sum.

Two-day Capita pay strike hits services

STAFF AT Capita sites across Britain struck on Monday and Tuesday over pay.

This followed a one-day strike in June.

Strikes took place in Reading, Bristol, Bournemouth, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Belfast and Stirling.

The bosses’ derisory pay offer will result in a real terms pay cut for 75 percent of Unite union members.

Capita client companies impacted included Prudential, Aviva, Royal London, Abbey Life and Guardian.

An overtime ban continues.

Brighton protest against NHS sell-off

HEALTH CAMPAIGNERS in Brighton protested outside a meeting of the council and NHS health commissioning board last week to oppose plans to privatise children’s health services.

Virgin Care is the frontrunner to grab the contract.

●**DISABLED PEOPLE** Against Cuts and other groups held protests at 17 Capita sites on Wednesday of last week over the assessments it carries out for the government that strip people of their benefits.

BUS WORKERS



WEYMOUTH BUS workers are into their sixth week of strikes

Bus strikes could spread much wider

THE FIGHT inside First Group buses could spread rapidly with new strike ballots in Yorkshire and Glasgow.

These come as strikes in Weymouth against First Dorset and First Hampshire buses enter their sixth week.

The workers are members of the Unite union.

Unite has announced a strike ballot of 4,000 workers in Yorkshire.

It covers workers in Bradford, Doncaster, Halifax, Huddersfield, Rotherham, Sheffield and York. They face

attacks on pay, terms and conditions.

Meanwhile, Unite members at First Glasgow voted overwhelmingly for strikes over driver shortages in a consultative ballot last week.

The ballot covered some 1,700 workers.

More than 110 drivers in Weymouth were set to strike for three days both this week and next in their fight over pay.

The Weymouth drivers are the lowest paid in First Group throughout

England. Yet bosses refuse to budge despite a profit of £52 million across First’s UK-wide bus division last month.

First have removed check off for union dues, so workers are converting to direct debit.

They collected £1,300 for the dispute at the Tolpuddle festival.

Thanks to Tim Nicholls

●Send messages of support to Simon Wilkins, shop steward, via Dorchester, Weymouth and Portland TUC at timtucouncil@talktalk.net

POST OFFICE

POST OFFICE workers are to ballot for strikes over the closure of their pension scheme. They are already balloting over possible job losses caused by plans to sell off some 20 post offices.

Around 3,500 Post Office workers are being forced to move from a final salary pension scheme to a defined

contribution scheme. Some workers could lose 30 percent of retirement benefits.

Andy Furey, assistant secretary of the workers’ CWU union, said, “This is another cost-cutting exercise to prop up their balance sheet at the expense of staff.”

Post Office workers should vote for strikes in both ballots.

The votes come as the CWU launched a campaign tour across Britain against Post Office closures. A union “battle bus” with a 20 foot postcard attached to the side was set to visit different towns and cities.

The tour was set to finish on Friday outside the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills office in central London.

OBITUARY

Davey Hopper 1943-2016

IT IS with great sadness we learnt of the death of Davey Hopper, general secretary of the Durham Miners Association and NUM union, last Saturday.

Davey was one of the finest trade union and socialist activists of his generation and his passing is a huge loss to the workers’ movement.

Steeled in struggle he and his “marra” Davy Guy became the leaders of Durham NUM on the back of their role in the 1984-5 strike.

He spent his entire life defending the miners and their communities.

Davey was more than just a trade union leader, he was a committed socialist and anti-fascist. Nor was he afraid to stand up to the right within



Davey Hopper

the unions or the Labour Party.

He stood by victimised union rep Yunus Bakhsh despite enormous pressure.

Recently he did the same for the Durham Teaching Assistants, giving them the use of the Miners’ Hall at Redhills.

He was a fantastic supporter of the film *Still the Enemy Within*.

Davey spoke brilliantly at a recent Unite the Resistance meeting in support of the

junior doctors.

A man of sharp wit, when Margaret Thatcher died he said, “Divent worry comrades there is gonna be an awful lot of coal to shovel where that bastard is ganning tee.”

He played an active role in supporting Jeremy Corbyn to become Labour leader.

But perhaps his greatest achievement was in turning the Durham Miners’ Gala into the biggest annual working class event in Europe.

Only last week he chaired the meeting at which over 200,000 attended.

The Gala is his legacy, and will serve to inspire generations to come to fight for the kind of world Davey would have been proud of.

We send our deepest condolences to his partner Maritza and sons Gary and Jason.

North East SWP

PRIDE

10,000 say no to racism and homophobia at Pride

AROUND 10,000 people marched through Newcastle as part of the annual Pride demonstration last Saturday.

There was a strong feeling of hope for a world free from homophobia, racism and discrimination.

LGBT+ Against Islamophobia launched a North East group with lots of people signing up and asking to be contacted.

Numerous people stopped to take photos with the banner.

Lee from Newcastle said, “It’s about time we saw a group up here that’s

committed to forging solidarity between oppressed peoples in society.

“Whether gay or straight, black or white, Muslim, Christian or atheist we need to come together now more than ever to fight back against the tide of racism.”

For many on Pride, LGBT+ Against Islamophobia was their first real contact with politics beyond the mainstream.

All who got chatting to us came away determined to get involved and smash homophobia and racism.

Jack Blackett

ANTI-FASCISM

Anti-fascist jailed for a year

AN ANTI-FASCIST protester has been jailed after a demonstration in Dover in January. Michelle Smith, a Unite union official, admitted violent disorder and was jailed for 12 months.

Her barrister, Benjamin Narain, told the court, “She did not go there with the intention of causing violence.”

He added that she had been stalked and attacked at her workplace in Liverpool.

Smith joined anti-Nazis who protested against the

Nazi National Front in Dover on 30 January.

Police allowed fascists to attack the counter-protest with bricks, rocks and bottles. Anti-Nazis defended themselves before police kettled them.

A freelance photographer was savagely attacked on the day by Peter Atkinson, who was jailed for seven years. The photographer required surgery involving plates and pins to reconstruct his elbow and arm.

NORTH SEA

Rig action can beat bosses

HUNDREDS OF North Sea oil rig workers are set to strike on 26 July over pay cuts.

Members of the Unite and RMT unions working for the Wood Group on eight of Shell’s North Sea oil and gas platforms voted overwhelmingly for action.

Over 99 percent of Unite members and almost 99 percent of RMT members voted for strikes.

They are protesting against redundancies, extra workloads, changes to rotas and pay cuts of up to 30 percent.

The Offshore Co-ordinating Group (OCG) was established to bring together trade union campaigns in the sector with the Unite, RMT, GMB, Balpa and Nautilus International unions.

OCG chair Tommy Campbell said, “The vote speaks volumes about the determination of these trade union members to defend their terms and conditions.

“The OCG calls upon other offshore workers not to be drawn into undermining this dispute by doing the work of striking workers.”

That is because bosses have been accused of recruiting scabs in the run-up to a strike. Shell considered using employment agency staff to work on platform helicopter decks.

Unite says Shell is engaging a “scab workforce” in a move it described as “extremely disturbing”.

There are 450 Wood Group workers employed on Shell platforms to carry out maintenance work.

Simon Basketter

FIGHTING DEPORTATIONS

CAMPAIGNERS against the deportation of asylum seekers protested last week outside the Royal Courts of Justice.

The court was debating the legality of Detained Fast Track procedures (DFTs) for deportation appeals.

The procedures give people appealing deportation decisions just seven days

to put together a case.

The protest was called by Movement for Justice.

One of the people affected is Prossie N, a lesbian from Uganda who has been deported and now is forced to live in hiding.

●Donate to Prossie’s financial appeal here bit.ly/2a461KX and sign the petition here chn.ge/2909uaB

MIGRANT WORKERS

Oil contractors in fight for equal pay

by DAVE SEWELL

MIGRANT WORKERS at Esso's Fawley oil refinery in Southampton struck on Thursday of last week against bosses who pay them half as much as British workers.

The 20 specialists are employed by contractor Nico, and are mainly Italian and Bulgarian. They are members of the Unite union.

Unite regional officer Malcolm Bonnett told Socialist Worker, "There's been a good turnout with about 15 people on the picket line. Other workers on the site are fully behind the strikers, there's a lot of sympathy."

An overtime ban began on Monday and a second 24-hour strike was planned on Wednesday 27 July.

The workers get about £48 for a 10-hour day, compared to £125 for the 270 other workers on the site, employed by other contractors, and British workers employed by Nico.

The higher rate reflects national and regional agreements that bosses want to drive down.

The strikers clean out



The Fawley oil refinery (above) and the picket line (below)



PICTURE: MALCOLM BONNETT

catalyst converter tanks and their action slows up refining.

Instead of lining up behind attacks on freedom of movement, supporting migrant workers' action is the way to stop bosses undercutting wages.

Malcolm said, "Unite won't stand by and see foreign workers being ripped off in such a grotesque manner.

CLEANERS

CLEANING WORKERS on all-out strike in the City of London held a protest on Wednesday of last week.

They work at 100 Wood Street where Goldman Sachs bank has offices.

Workers are striking for the reinstatement of their colleagues and a living wage. The protest marched on the head office of CBRE Ltd, which manages 100 Wood Street and blocked the road.

Victor, one of the workers, told the crowd, "We are men and women workers and we deserve respect. We will fight until the end."

●Fundraising gig for the strike fund: 23 July at 7pm, Amersham Arms, SE14 6TY

We won't countenance a race to the bottom in wages by unscrupulous bosses."

Malcolm said the strikers had already received messages of solidarity from other workers. "It's really good to be able to read them out to the pickets," he added.

●Send messages of support to malcolm.bonnett@unitetheunion.org or 07958624506

HIGHER EDUCATION

Rally at London Met to support sacked workers

by SADIE ROBINSON

AROUND 60 people rallied at London Metropolitan University on Wednesday of last week in defence of Mark Campbell and David Hardman.

The UCU union branch officers lost appeals against their compulsory redundancies earlier this month.

London Met UCU said they had been targeted because of their "activities as trade

unionists". UCU members at London Met were set to meet on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

They should call for a strike ballot to defend their reps and the right to organise.

●Send messages of protest to London Met vice chancellor John Raftery at j.raftery@londonmet.ac.uk

●National demonstration—Education for All—Saturday 23 July, assemble at London Met Tower Building, Holloway Road, 11.30am

NATIONAL PAY CAMPAIGN

UCU UNION members at several universities struck last week as part of the continuing dispute over pay and conditions.

Workers walked out at Roehampton university on Wednesday and at Canterbury Christ Church university on

Thursday. Strikes hit the University of Teesside and Swansea university on Friday.

Strikers want equal pay for women and an end to casualised contracts.

They have also rejected a paltry 1.1 percent pay offer from bosses.

SCHOOLS

Liverpool walkout over pay

TEACHERS AT Chesterfield High School in Liverpool struck for two days last week over performance-related pay.

The NUT union members said many teachers would be refused a pay rise despite hitting their targets. This is because they are deemed to be making insufficient "progress".

One placard on the picket line read, "I teach pupils not units of progress".

Pete Glover, the NUT's national executive committee member for Merseyside, said such attacks "will lead to a

mass exodus" from teaching.

He added, "People are working 50 hours a week but still being told they are not meeting their targets."

●Send messages of support to secretary@sefton.nut.org.uk

UNION ELECTION

KEVIN COURTNEY has been elected general secretary of the NUT union. He won 70 percent of the vote. His rival Beth Davies won 30 percent.

UNITE CONFERENCE

Hero's welcome for Corbyn as union backs reselections

THE LABOUR leadership row dominated the second half of the Unite union's policy conference in Brighton last week.

Jeremy Corbyn received a hero's welcome and pledged to repeal the "draconian" Trade Union Act.

Delegates voted overwhelmingly to campaign for Labour MPs to undergo mandatory reselection.

Seconding the motion, Mike Hedges, chair of Unite's London and Eastern political committee, said, "We need to throw our members into the fight to make these MPs accountable."

Stewart Dack, vice chair of Reigate Constituency Labour Party, said, "Our membership has tripled since Jeremy became leader. And how many people have resigned? One."

Housing worker and Labour

member Joe Bailey told Socialist Worker reselections were necessary to fight the Labour right. "The way they are trying to manipulate democracy is disgusting and we need to sort it out," he said.

Conference also affiliated to Stand Up To Racism and agreed to campaign for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions on Israel.

There was debate over an executive statement on the European Union (EU) referendum result.

Some delegates argued that the union should take a more overtly pro-EU stance. Others slammed references to "abuse of free movement" as legitimising racist arguments about immigration.

TUC leader Frances O'Grady and shadow chancellor John McDonnell also spoke.

●more at socialistworker.co.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cuts battle in Bromley

WORKERS ACROSS all services at Bromley council in south east London were set to strike on Wednesday against cuts and privatisation.

Staff in the borough's libraries already began a seven-day strike on Saturday. Bosses want to have some libraries run by volunteers, others by private firms.

Some workers have now taken 30 days of action in the ongoing fight. Their Unite union rep Kath Smith has been victimised.

A march is planned for Saturday, starting at 11am in Norman Park, Hayes Lane, Bromley BR2 9EE.

Wednesday's action coincides with a strike by library workers in the Unison union in nearby Lewisham.

NHS

Protest and strike call at St Barts

HEALTH campaigners held a demonstration outside St Bartholomew's Hospital in central London on Thursday of last week against attacks on the NHS.

Some 200 people marched from the hospital to St Paul's Cathedral.

Junior doctor and NHS Solidarity organiser Mona Kamal spoke to Socialist Worker about the ongoing junior doctors' dispute. "The next step is naming some dates for strikes," she said.

Yannis Gourtsoyannis from the Junior Doctors Committee of the British Medical Association said, "We've been fighting for the future viability of the NHS. If we need to escalate, we will escalate."

WIRRAL

Academy action in Wallasey

A STRIKE over job cuts hit Oldershaw Academy in Wallasey, Wirral, on Tuesday. It was the first of a series of one-day strikes planned by NASUWT union members at the school.

The union is in dispute over redundancies and the formula for calculating redundancy pay. It said redundancy payments were higher

before the school became an academy, which only offers statutory redundancy pay.

The union said five teachers are being made redundant, and the contracts for a number of support staff are being terminated.

Further walkouts are planned for 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15 September if bosses don't back down.

EAST LONDON

School bosses back down

THE NUT union suspended a planned strike at Connaught School for Girls in east London last week after bosses made concessions.

Teachers had planned to strike on Thursday of last week, following a one-day strike earlier this month. They were fighting a plan to increase their working hours.

Bosses gave a guarantee

that increases to hours this year will not be made in the future and promised a reduction in meetings. The union has agreed to give bosses until October to implement other changes to workload.

Workers made gains by striking and threatening further walkouts, and feel more confident as a result.

NEW PROTESTS TAKE ON POLICE

by ALISTAIR FARROW

THE BLACK Lives Matter (BLM) movement in Britain widened and deepened over the last week. Demonstrations and vigils for victims of police violence took place across the country.

The protests, isolated and spontaneous at first, have turned into a movement of young, black, working class people.

Some 3,000 people marched in Liverpool on two anti-racist protests last weekend.

One was a BLM protest and another demanded justice for Mzee Mohammed, who died in police custody last week (see below, right).

Answers

His mother told the crowd, "I will not rest, I will walk in my son's shoes until I get answers and anyone who had a hand in my boy's death will be brought to justice."

BLM activists joined the No More Austerity, No to Racism demonstration in London last Saturday (see page 8). Grace



PROTESTERS IN Liverpool demand justice for Mzee Mohammed, who died in police custody

PICTURE: JOHN CARR

said, "Young black people are coming in and becoming political. The media portrays us as apolitical but that's not true."

In Nottingham over 200 people attended a protest

in solidarity with BLM on Wednesday of last week. It was the springboard for the formation of a BLM group in the city.

People spoke about the need to fight racism and

police violence in Britain as well as giving solidarity to those in the US.

Up to 1,000 protested in Bradford, around 800 in Leeds and up to 100 Cambridge. Some 150

people gathered in Derby for a rally and afternoon of music, poetry and speeches.

Brett, one of the organisers of the protest, spoke to Socialist Worker.

"I don't normally go on

demonstrations because you shout and protest and then go home and nothing gets done," he said.

"Young people and older people are actually listening, everyone's taking it seriously.

"A lot of people are coming together and creating organisations.

Solution

"The bottom line is, what are we going to do next, what's the solution?"

An open meeting was set to take place at the Dalston mosque in east London to discuss ways forward for the movement on Wednesday of this week.

On a huge Oxford Street protest earlier this month, black and white bus drivers honked their horns and took leaflets from activists.

Drawing trade unionists into the campaign will be a key way to deepen the politics of the movement.

Thanks to John Carr, Julie Webster and Tom Woodcock

On other pages...

Black Lives Matter activists speak out >>> **Pages 10&11**

Marchers defy repression on US demonstrations

AN ATTACK on police in the US left three cops dead and another three seriously injured last Sunday.

The attack took place in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where Alton Sterling was killed by police two weeks ago.

The killer was identified as Gavin Long, a former US marine who did a six-month tour in Iraq in 2008.

Micah Johnson, who killed five cops in Dallas last week, had also been in the US army.

It is no surprise that some former soldiers express themselves through armed violence.

The mass murder of

over a million Iraqis was presented as necessary and legitimate to thousands of US soldiers.

The attacks on police take place in the context

of a series of racist killings by officers.

The Black Lives Matter movement in the US has continued in the face of fierce police repression.

There have been mass arrests in numerous cities. Even small demonstrations are heavily policed.

Police arrested some 65 people in Baltimore last Saturday after protesters against police brutality blocked a road.

The right in the US have begun a smear campaign to link attacks on cops and the BLM protests.

Dan Patrick, the lieutenant governor of Texas, said that Micah Johnson's actions were a direct result of "former Black Lives Matter protests."

Racist violence from the police is the real problem. It's right to protest against it.

Mzee family want answers

MZEE MOHAMMED died in police custody on Wednesday of last week in Liverpool.

Police were called after security guards reported him behaving erratically at the Liverpool One shopping centre.

There are serious questions to be answered about his treatment in custody and what care, if any, he received.

Abeke Sanders, a friend of Mzee's family, was at a vigil in London last Sunday.

She told Socialist Worker, "Mzee left his house at 12.30 on Wednesday. His mum heard a report on the

Mzee Mohammed

news that a young man had been killed on her way to work.

"She was told at 2am by police that her son would not be coming home."